

---

**From:** Weiner, Sadie [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DF98BD64929043EEAAB54E589DD7D1B2-ASWEINER]  
**Sent:** 1/30/2018 5:48:31 PM  
**To:** Batten, Taylor [tbatten@charlotteobserver.com]  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Duke Energy

I'm sorry I won't be able to get you something new from today, but a couple old things you are welcome to reference.

'Consumers shouldn't foot the bill to clean up coal ash. Many families and businesses are already struggling and simply can't afford to pay more for power while utilities continue to earn high profits,' Cooper said. 'Coal ash must be cleaned up to protect our water and the utility can afford to pay for it more than consumers can.'" (Stokes News (Danbury), June 26, 2014)

**Cooper: "I Have Opposed The Efforts Of Utilities To Raise Rates On Customers To Benefit Shareholders Unnecessarily, And Continue To Oppose The Efforts Of Utilities To Pass On To Ratepayers The Costs Of Expenditures Like Coal Ash Cleanup."** In an Indy Week candidate questionnaire, Cooper wrote, "Meanwhile, I have opposed the efforts of utilities to raise rates on customers to benefit shareholders unnecessarily, and continue to oppose the efforts of utilities to pass on to ratepayers the costs of expenditures like coal ash cleanup. Unfortunately environmental damage has left some residents of our state unsure about the quality of their drinking water, and some are still drinking bottled water due to questionable water test results. What happened to the Dan River during the Governor's watch should not happen again to any of the state's rivers and streams. The coal ash cleanup should move forward quickly and effectively in line with what the science and public health officials recommend to ensure the integrity of our water supply and waterways." (Candidate Questionnaire, Indy Week, March 2, 2016)

---

**From:** Batten, Taylor [mailto:tbatten@charlotteobserver.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018 4:00 PM  
**To:** Weiner, Sadie <sadie.weiner@nc.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [External] Duke Energy

**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [report.spam@nc.gov](mailto:report.spam@nc.gov).

I'm writing it now. It won't be in print until Thursday but we'll post it online either late today or first thing tomorrow morning.

On Tue, Jan 30, 2018 at 3:45 PM, Weiner, Sadie <[sadie.weiner@nc.gov](mailto:sadie.weiner@nc.gov)> wrote:

Hi Taylor – sorry for my delay. What's your deadline? Are you trying to write something for tomorrow's paper?

---

**From:** Batten, Taylor [mailto:[tbatten@charlotteobserver.com](mailto:tbatten@charlotteobserver.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018 12:05 PM  
**To:** Weiner, Sadie <[sadie.weiner@nc.gov](mailto:sadie.weiner@nc.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External] Duke Energy

**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [report.spam@nc.gov](mailto:report.spam@nc.gov).

Hi Sadie,

Hope you are well.

As you may know, the Utilities Commission is holding a public hearing in Charlotte tonight about Duke Energy Carolinas' requested rate increase and I'm probably going to write an editorial about it. Can you help me by letting me know where the governor stands on this and what he is doing currently, if anything, on it?

Thanks!

--

Taylor Batten  
Editorial Page Editor  
The Charlotte Observer  
[\(704\) 358-5934](tel:7043585934)

---

Email correspondence to and from this address may be subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties by an authorized state official.

--

Taylor Batten  
Editorial Page Editor  
The Charlotte Observer  
(704) 358-5934